all a sole producer of coal in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJ1T KUMAR PANJA); (a) to (c) Some recommendationsj allotments of coal were being received from sp onsoring authrities coordinating agencies on specified collieries carry ing 10 per cent premium. In such cases it was presumed that the recommen dation! allotment was made with the concurrence of the, concerned consu mer. Some consumers however challenged the charging of 10 per cent premium on coal produced in specified collie ries over and above the prices noti fied for different grades of coal. High Court at Jabalpur disposed of those petitions on the assurance from the coal companies to the effect that consumers need not necessarily buy coal from the collieries carrying 10 per cent premium and they are free to purchase coal from other collieries.

(d) to (f) CIL does not fix the price of coal. The price of coal including premium on coal is fixed by the Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred on it by clauses 3 and 4 of the Colliery Control Order, 1945, as continued in force by section 16 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Coal Irdia Limited (CIL) charges the price of coal as per the statutory notification of the Government. Generally the criterion followed for fixing the price of coai is the recommendation made, after study, by the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices. Under clause 4 of Colliery Control Order, different prices can be fixed for coal produced in different collieries.

Status of ash as vendible coal

3562. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal beyond 35 per cent ash was not considered as vendible coal till the erstwhile Coal Boafd was working;

(b) if so, under what considera tions the present grading of coal up-to 55 per cent ash is also declared as coal for industrial use; and

(c) whether it is a fact that lower variety of coal creates problems of pollution and of handling while uti lising the same in different industries?

THE MIINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir. The erstwhile Coal Board had been grading coals of ash content upto 35 per cent and coals beyond this range of ash were considered to foe non-vendible.

(b) and (c) In the present grading system coals with ash and moisture content upto 55 per cent have been considered as vendible. The conser vation of valuable natural energy resources like coal was the main con sideration taken into account in the present grading system. The consu mption profile of coal has undergone vast changes over the last two de cades. Earlier, the design of combus tion equipment was such that only coals with high heat value could be utilised. With the emergence of Pul verised Firing of coal particularly in the thermal power station boilers, it has become possible to utilise coals with high ash content with high ther mal efficiency The modem coal, combustion equipment parti-cularly the power station boilers can handle coals with high ash content without any serious problem. The environmental pollution mainly arises from the 'fly ash' produced when the coal is burnt. This prob-lem can be considerably reduced by using beneficiated coal.

Non availability of coal to Gujarat Electricity Board and SSI nnits

3563. SHRI VITHALBHAI Ml. PATEL: SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: SHRI ANANTRAY DEV-SHANKER DAVE: